

Medical men are too prone to accept new drugs as they accept new ideas, because they are new, without sufficiently testing them or demanding the approval of recognized authorities.

I make a conservative statement when I say that on the desks of each of us from three to ten advertisements such as I have described are placed daily, but the education of medical men in therapeutics by manufacturers does not stop here. Drummers are about as numerous as circulars, and each gives a brief, carefully prepared lecture on the wares which he carries. A lecture which is often interesting and if it told the whole truth would be instructive. Unfortunately, only that which will help to sell the goods is told. It is often surprising, too, how ignorant the detail man is when questioned as to his wares on other points than those in the lecture which he has committed to memory.

It is not surprising that medical men have surrendered to manufacturers and accept their teaching, since their goods are advertised in almost every medical journal and not infrequently well exploited in so-called original articles in these publications.

Manifestly, the condition in which we find ourselves must be changed. That this may be accomplished we must, first of all, recognize the disease, so to speak, of which we suffer. Second, we should insist that the teaching of pharmacology and therapeutics in medical schools be confined to the drugs of the pharmacopeia. Third, we should take more interest in the pharmacopeia and demand that it contain only drugs of genuine worth, and that it be revised often enough to insure the admission of all valuable new ones. Let the pharmacopeia be made a standard for both the medical and pharmaceutical professions.

Lastly, a greater amount of pharmacologic and therapeutic research should be stimulated. During the second and third quarters of the last century a very large amount of knowledge of this kind was accumulated by painstaking research; but in the last twenty-five or thirty years the attention of those medical men who have been contributing to our knowledge has been centered almost exclusively on etiology, bacteriology and pathology.

It is not surprising that in proportion as the most original minds among us neglect the field of pharmacology and therapeutics the manufacturer seizes this opportunity to instruct us. For he can do his teaching in his own way almost unchallenged by authorities.

MISSISSIPPI VALLEY MEDICAL ASSOCIATION.

The next meeting of the Mississippi Valley Medical Association will be held at Hot Springs, Arkansas, November 6, 7, and 8, under the presidency of Dr. J. H. Carstens, of Detroit, Mich. The annual addresses will be delivered by Dr. Frank Parsons Norbury, Jacksonville, Ill., in Medicine and by Dr. Florus F. Lawrence, of Columbus, Ohio, in Surgery.

Dr. Norbury has chosen for the subject of his

address, "Clinical Psychology," and Dr. Lawrence will discuss in his address, "Surgical Principles and Theories." In addition to these addresses there will be the annual address of the President, Dr. Carstens.

A partial list of the papers promised is published herewith. Communications regarding papers should be addressed to the Secretary, Dr. Henry E. Tuley, 111 W. Kentucky Street, Louisville, Ky.

Elaborate arrangements have been made by the local profession of Hot Springs to entertain the visiting doctors and their wives, the meeting being held at one of the largest hotels, which will be specially opened in advance of the season to accommodate the Association. A cordial invitation is extended to every physician in the Valley to attend this meeting for which a large number of interesting and valuable papers have been promised.

SANTA CLARA COUNTY.

The meeting of the society held July 18, 1906, in the Auditorium of the Y. M. C. A. Building, San Jose, was one of the most successful ever known to our society. The following members were in attendance: Asay, Hervey, Fraser, Wm. Simpson, Harris, Park, Anderson, Trueman, McMahon, Goodrich, Jessie Simpson, Newell, Napp, Keith, A. S. J. Smith, Jayet, Cooper, Brown, Wagner, Beattie, Grissim, Burns, Whiffen, Cothran, Miller, Lyons, and Osborne.

The regular order of business was suspended for the purpose of at once proceeding to the special lecture of the evening which was delivered by Dr. Dudley Tait, of San Francisco: Subject, "Some New Problems in Lung Surgery." The lecture was illustrated and held the closest attention of the members throughout. At its conclusion Dr. Tait was warmly congratulated and the society tendered him a rising vote of thanks as a token of their appreciation of the evening's entertainment. Owing to the absence of Dr. Snow, of special committee on the subject, the discussion of the subject of reduction of fees for examination for Life Insurance Companies was ordered to be the special order of business for next regular monthly meeting. This meeting will be held on Wednesday evening, August 15th, 1906, at the St. James Hotel, San Jose, at the hour of 8 o'clock, sharp. In addition to the special order Dr. George Lee Eaton of San Francisco, will present an illustrated paper on "The Treatment of Pyelitis and Ureteritis by Urethral Catheterization and Lavage, and Microscopic Urinary Diagnosis."

Members of the council are requested to meet in session prior to the meeting for the consideration of important business. Councillors will please report to the President not later than 7:45 p. m.

ANTRIM EDGAR OSBORNE,
Secretary.

Please remember that the office of the State Society, and of the State Journal, and of the Secretary, Dr. Philip Mills Jones, is now located at

2210 Jackson Street,
San Francisco.